

The Drift of Things

By REV. J. H. RALSTON, D. D.
Secretary of Correspondence Department,
Moody Bible Institute, Chicago

TEXT—We let her drive . . . —Acts 17:15.



Are you caught in the drift? Is it carrying you to the rocks? When the tempestuous wind Euroclydon struck the ship on which were 276 souls, including the Apostle Paul, it was too much for the skilled mariners, and for the safety of the ship, they let her drive, care being taken to guard against possible disastrous results afterward. What a picture have we here of many human lives! The winds of fortune, as the saying is, have been too much for them, and they are simply drifting. The vast majority do not seem to care whether the drift ends disastrously or not.

Possibly the majority do not think of the power of the influence about them that causes the drift. It is not fair to God to charge him with being so arbitrary in his sovereign control that man is without responsibility. Whatever may be the destiny that shapes our ends, man is in a true sense master of his own fate.

Seeking after pleasure is a strong wind that is blowing and carrying multitudes before it. The great theaters, as a rule, are packed for practically every performance. In the saloons, men are standing two or three deep before the bars. Where ices and sweet-meats are served, the tables will all be taken. Go to the great athletic fields, and thousands will be found. The spirit with reference to pleasure seems to be, "Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

Is the church caught in any drift? A way to the world is the movement in many churches, and not only congregations but entire denominations are diligently using the methods of the world in order to successfully "put over" certain great denominational schemes! Sad is the condition of the day!

What about the drift of Christian teaching? Twenty-five years ago men were asking with some concern if the teaching of the great German theologians might not be ultimately dangerous. Quickly came the reply: "These men have truth and are the heralds of a day of religious and spiritual enlightenment for which the world has been hungering." The same question was asked in later years, but the power of false teaching continued, and the church of God, caught in the drift, went on until the great world war was like a searching light making everything plain. That drift has not stopped, and many days, yes, possibly years, may pass, before the church reaches some Isle of Melita, where it may possibly go to pieces on the rocks, but God's people in it be saved.

What is the great lesson from such drift? First, keep where the wind of doubt and criticism may not catch you. It is simply not true that the day in which we find ourselves, as to Christian teaching and living, is better than a former day. Spiritual values cannot be calculated in terms of dollars and cents, nor in steam and air pressure, dead weight or voltage. How foolish it is to think that the scientific attainments of men can solve spiritual problems. Germany's science was said to have been given by God, in order that she might rule the world. The blast of the Lord came to Germany, as it came to the hosts of Sennacherib.

If possible, do not get into the drift. There are plenty of godly men and women today who fully escaped the skeptical drift of the last quarter of a century. Keep close to the truth of the Word of God, and not only yourself but your cause will be saved.

How easy it is to get into the drift of immorality. The gross sins are not committed at the first. The eating of the forbidden fruit by Adam and Eve was not a gross sin at all; indeed, it was not sinful in itself, but it was an act of distrust and ultimately of disobedience, and thus became a sin. But there is something more important than high morality. There is a drifting away from the personal God. The only return to God is by a personal surrender to Jesus Christ.

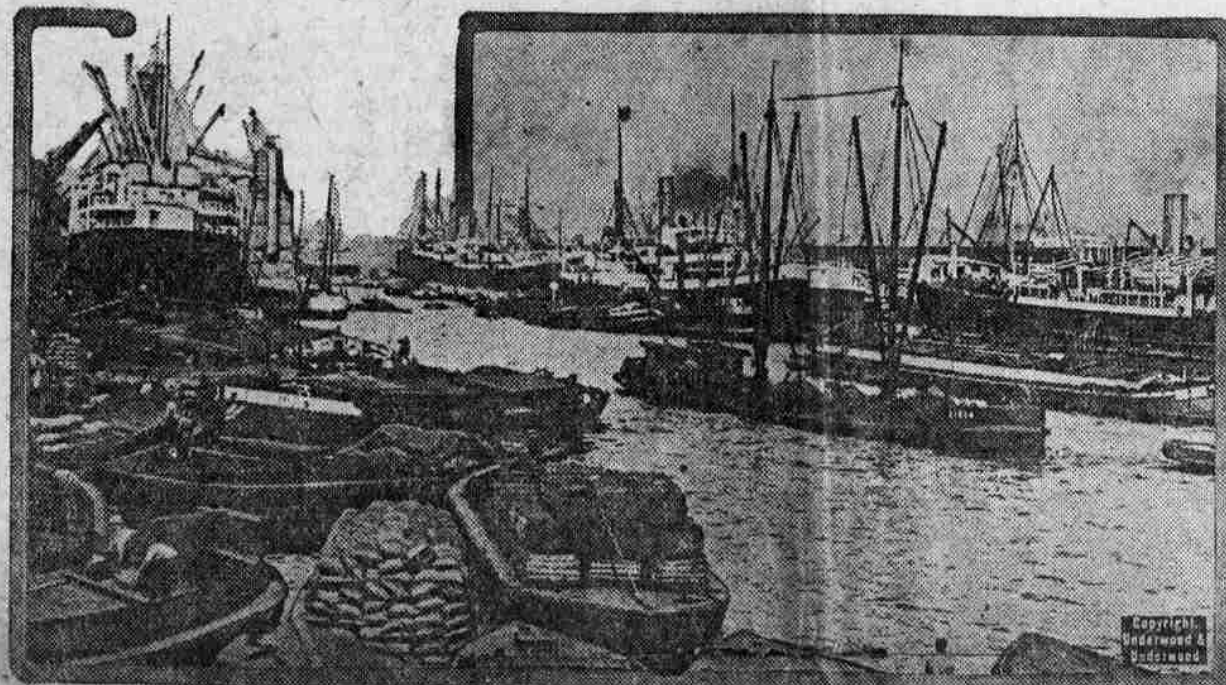
Fresh Methods.

Originality in a Sunday school teacher does not always mean doing new things, or even doing old things in new ways. An original teacher is one who brings to his work the quality of freshness, as if he were the first Sunday school class ever taught and he the first Sunday school teacher in the world's history. Sunday school teaching, to the original teacher, has the charm of beginnings, the romance of discovery. He attacks every new lesson with the zest of a Columbus. Whether his methods are new or not, they seem new to himself, and so he makes them seem new to his delighted pupils. For what young person, or old for that matter, does not enjoy setting forth into a wonderful



1—Some of the athletes picked to represent the American army in the interallied meet at Joinville-le-Pont, near Paris, photographed as they were about to sail from New York. 2—African chasseurs in the square at Beyruth when the French occupied Syria. 3—Grace Loretta Williams of Pall Mall, Tenn., who was married to Sergt. Alvin York, known as the "greatest hero of the war."

IDLE SHIPPING IN THE HARBOR OF HAMBURG



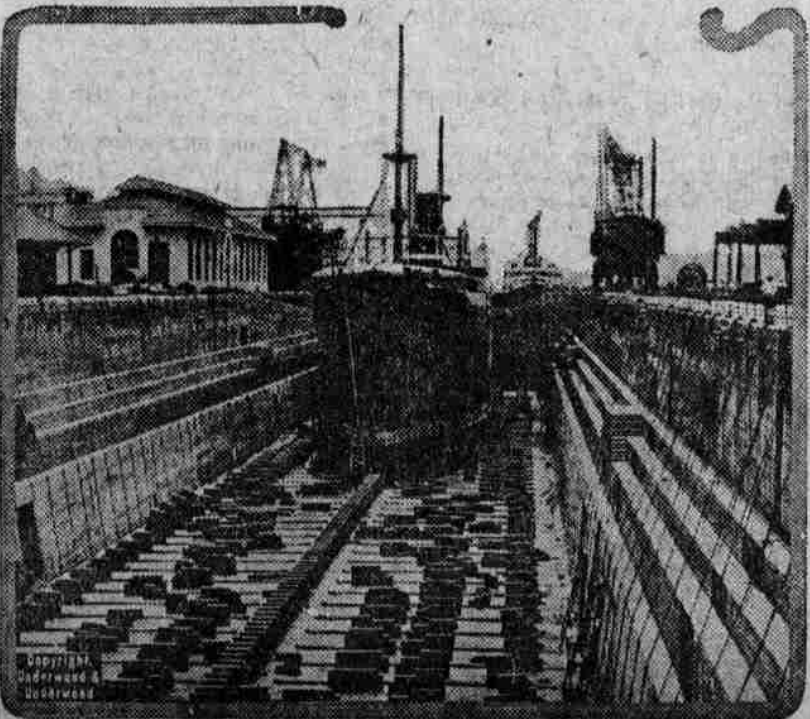
A view of the harbor of Hamburg, Germany, with numerous idle vessels lying at anchor.

SCENE AT REVIVED LEIPSIK FAIR



This year, for the first time since the war started, the famous annual Leipzig fair was held. The photograph shows the throngs viewing the exhibits in Peter street.

BIG CONCRETE DRY DOCK AT BALBOA



A 6,000-ton sea-going steamer undergoing repairs in the concrete dry dock at Balboa, the Pacific entrance to the Panama canal. This is the largest dry dock in the world.

COMBAT WITH THEIR HEADS

Giraffes Have Distinctly Peculiar Method of Settling Differences That Arise Among Themselves.

While the giraffe can hardly be classed among the fierce duellists of the animal world, yet animals of this species are known to have their combats like their more ferocious fellows. The long-necked beast has an original and curious method of fighting. It has neither claws nor beak nor sharp teeth with which to defend or attack, so when it is out of temper with one of its kind it does not fly in the face of Providence by trying to disembowel its adversary, as a rhinoceros might, or tear it, as a tiger would. On the contrary, the giraffe, knowing that it has been provided by nature with a long and pliable neck, terminating in a very solid head, uses the upper part of itself like a flail, and, swinging its neck around and around in a way that does immense credit to its organization, brings its head down at each swing with a thump on its antagonist.

The other combatant uses precisely the same tactics, and the two animals, planting themselves as firmly as possible by stretching out on all four legs to the utmost, stand opposite to each other hammering away with their heads until one or the other has had enough.

The head of the giraffe is furnished with two stumpy, hornlike processes, so that the animals when at this hammer-and-tongs mode of warfare, remind the spectator somewhat of two ancient warriors thumping each other with the spiked balls they used to carry for that purpose at the end of a chain.—New York Herald.

WROTE OF LIFE AT HARVARD

Author Now Forgotten Conceded to Have Been the First to Depict Undergraduate Days.

Harvard graduates, the world over, have long believed that the earliest pictorial record of undergraduate life at the oldest college in the United States was made when F. G. Attwood drew his pictures of college life for the first volume of the Harvard Lampoon. The Lampoon was the forerunner of humorous journalism to America; Attwood became a famous humorist; and his "Manners & Customs of the Harvard Student" was established as a classic. The discovery of a time-stained book in a New England farmhouse reveals an earlier draftsman, whose "College Scenes" antedate "The Harvard Student" by about a quarter of a century, but were soon generally forgotten. Of N. Hayward, the artist, no record remains but the bare fact that he was then in college. The discoverer, however, had a rare afternoon when he found the volume in a dusty chest, where it had been packed away with a lot of contemporary textbooks and an old Harvard diploma.—Christian Science Monitor.

Historic Strasburg.

In establishing the administration of the restored provinces of Alsace-Lorraine in the city of Strasburg, the people of France have regained a richly historic ground, says the Boston Transcript. Its cathedral, whose building engaged the services of famous architects and decorators for the period of four centuries before reaching the completion in which it stands today, is one of the marvels of the world. Its great university has a library of a million volumes and before the war its students numbered more than 2,000.

These are the local glories, but a universal fame has been gained by the products of its more intimate talent. Thus, Alsatian wine has had world-wide recognition since the middle ages; Strasburg beer was known before America was discovered, and as for that delicacy so prized by the fastidious taste of gourmands, the pate de fois gras, the name of Strasburg is the certificate of extreme excellence.

Improved Oil-Burner.

A new oil-burner for the kitchen stove, announced from Cairo, Egypt, is attachable by a special flange to the grate door, and it neither requires alteration of the solid fuel stove nor prevents the use of solid fuel. The nozzle projects about an inch into the grate, the oil tank being mounted on a suitable rack outside the stove. A small fire heats the fuel oil to about 150 degrees Fahrenheit, and as the oil passes from the nozzle, a jet of compressed air or steam converts it into a spray that burns with a continuous smokeless and odorless flame. In Cairo, it is noted, compressed air is supplied in pipes to houses.

They Wouldn't Suit Her.

Mary Pickford was talking about the new French fashions. "The French," she said, "are trying to bring the long skirt back again." She frowned slightly. Then, as she glanced down at her little shoe, her brow cleared. "There's no doubt," she said, "that long skirts would suit some girls down to the ground."

"Key Money."

In many districts of England, and particularly in Yorkshire, where the dearth of houses is acute, the practice of paying "key money" is growing. So keen are prospective tenants to get into a house directly it is vacant that as much as \$50 to \$100 is offered to the occupier for the key, this transaction generally carrying with it the understanding that the landlord will accept the succeeding tenant.

Unnecessary.

"Oh, my!" yawned the wife as hubby pended with her to arise and prepare his breakfast. You never let me have my beauty sleep.

"But you don't need a beauty sleep, dear," answered hubby.

And it came to pass that wifey quickly arose and there have been no more late breakfasts in that household, even unto this day.—Judge.

THIN PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE PHOSPHATE

Nothing Like Plain Bitro-Phosphate to Put on Firm, Healthy Flesh and to Increase Strength, Vigor and Nerve Force.

Judging from the countless preparations and treatments which are continually being advertised for the purpose of making thin people fleshy, developing arms, neck and bust, and replacing ugly hollows and angles by the soft curved lines of health and beauty, there are evidently thousands of men and women who keenly feel their excessive thinness.

Thinness and weakness are often due to starved nerves. Our bodies need more phosphate than is contained in modern foods. Physicians advise there is nothing that will supply this deficiency so well as the organic phosphate known among druggists as bitro-phosphate, which is inexpensive and is sold by most all druggists under a guarantee of satisfaction or money back. By feeding the nerves directly and by supplying the body cells with the necessary phosphoric food elements, bitro-phosphate should produce a welcome transformation in the appearance; the increase in weight frequently being astonishing.

Increase in weight also carries with it a general improvement in the health. Nervousness, sleeplessness and lack of energy, which nearly always accompany excessive thinness, should disappear, dull eyes become bright, and pale cheeks glow with the bloom of perfect health.

CAUTION:—Although bitro-phosphate is unsurpassed for relieving nervousness, sleeplessness and general weakness, it should not, owing to its tendency to increase weight, be used by anyone who does not desire to put on flesh.

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Banner Lye is sold by your grocer or druggist. Write to us for free booklet, "Uses of Banner Lye." The Penn Chemical Works Philadelphia USA

Men are born robbers. Every time a man marries he robs a woman of her name.

Nature's purging efforts may be coaxed or coerced. Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills gently but firmly urge Nature to her best effort.—adv.

The good the average man does may be interred with the bones without overcrowding the basket.

Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It

Applicants for Insurance Often Rejected.

Judging from reports from druggists who are constantly in direct touch with the public, there is one preparation that has been very successful in overcoming these conditions. The mild and healing influence of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its remarkable record of success.

An examining physician for one of the prominent Life Insurance Companies, in an interview of the subject, made the astonishing statement that one reason why so many applicants for insurance are rejected is because kidney trouble is so common to the American people, and the large majority of those whose applications are declined do not even suspect that they have the disease. It is on sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes, medium and large.

However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

A true philosopher never argues. He mentally concludes his opponent is a fool, and lets it go at that.

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